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A  
PROCLAMATION  
declaring his  
MAIESTIES  
Pleasure concerning the dissol-  
ving of the present Conuention  
of Parliament.



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PROCLAMATION

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MEMORIAL SERVICE  
AT THE  
GRAND CENTRAL STATION  
NEW YORK CITY  
APRIL 4, 1968

APR 4 1968

APR 4 1968  
NEW YORK CITY  
GRAND CENTRAL STATION





# ● A Proclamation

declaring his Maiesties pleasure  
concerning the dissolving of the  
present Conuention of  
Parliament.



Albeit the Assem-  
bling, Conti-  
nuing, and  
Dissolving of  
Parliaments,  
be a Preroga-  
tive so peculi-  
arly belonging  
to Our Im-

periall Crowne, and the times and  
seasons thereof so absolutelie in  
A Our

Our owne power, that wee neede  
 not giue account thereof vnto any :  
 yet, according to Our continuall cus-  
 tome, to make Our good Subjects  
 acquainted with the reasons of all  
 Our publike resolutions and acti-  
 ons, We haue thought it expedient  
 at this time to declare, not onely  
 Our pleasure and resolution there-  
 in, grounded vpon mature delibe-  
 ration, with the aduice and vniforme  
 consent of Our whole Pruiue Coun-  
 cell; but therewith also to note some  
 especiall proceedings moouing Vs  
 to this resolution : And that chieflie  
 to this end, that as God, so the  
 world may witnesse with Vs, that  
 it was Our intent to haue made this  
 the happiest Parliament that euer  
 was in Our time : And that the  
 lettes and impediments thereof be-  
 ing discerned, all misunderstandings  
 and iealousies might be remooued,  
 and all Our people may know and  
 beleue, that wee are as farre from  
 imputing

imputing any of those ill accidents, that haue happened in Parliament, to any want or neglect of duty, or good affection towards Us, by them in generall, or by the greater and better number of Parliament men, as we are confident (the true causes discovered) they wilbe farre from imputing it to any default in Us; there hauing in the beginning of this late Assemblie passed greater and more infallible tokens of loue and duty from Our Subiects to Us their Soueraigne, and more remarkeable testimonies from Us of Our Princely care and zeale of their welfare, then haue beene in any Parliament met in any former Age.

This Parliament was by Us called, as for making good and profitable Lawes, so more especially, in this time of miserable distraction throughout Christendome, for the better setting of peace and



Religion, and restoring Our Children to their ancient and lawfull patrimony, which we attempted to procure by peaceable treaty, at Our owne excessive charge; thereby to save and prevent the effusion of Christian blood, the miserable effect of warre, and dissension; yet with full purpose, if that succeeded not, to recover it by the Word; and therfore, as a necessary meanes conducing to those ends, the supply of Our Treasures was to bee provided for.

This Parliament beginning in January last, proceeded some moneths with such harmonie betweene Us and Our people, as cannot bee paralleld by any former time: For as the House of Commons at the first, both in the manner of their supplye, and otherwise, shewed greater loue, and more respect then ever any House of Commons did to Us, or (as wee thinke) to any King before

fore Us : So wee, vpon all their complaints, haue afforded them such memorabile and rare examples of Justice, as many ages past cannot shew the like; wherein, that wee preferred the Weale of Our people before all particular respects, the things themselves doe sufficiently prooue, Our Justice being extended, not onely to persons of ordinary ranke and qualitie, but even to the prime Officer of Our Kingdome. And although, after their first Recess at Easter, wee found that they mispent a great Deale of time, rather vpon the enlarging of the limites of their liberties, and diuers other curious, and vnprofitable things, then vpon the framing and proponing of good and profitable Lawes : Yet wee gaue them time and scope for their Parliamentary proceedings, and prolonged the Session to an vnusuall length, continuing it vntill the eight and twen-

tieth day of May, before wee signified Our purpose for their Recesse; and then wee declared, that wee would make a Recesse on the fourth day of June next following, but only for a time, and in such maner, as might bee without disturbance to any their businesses in hand, expressing out of Our Grace (though we needed not) the causes of that Our purpose, which were the season of the yeere, vsually hot, and vnfit for great assemblies, Our Progresse approaching, the necessitie wee had to make vse of Our Councell attending in both houses, both to settle Our waightie affaires of State before wee went, and to attend Vs when wee went Our Progresse, the disfurnishing of Our ordinary Courts of Justice so many Termes together, the long absence of Iustices of Peace, and Deputy Lieutenants, whose presence was needfull for making and returning of musters,



musters, and for subordinate go-  
 uernement of the Countrey; and  
 therefore we appointed to adiourne  
 the Parliament on the fourth day  
 of June, giving that warning long-  
 er then vsuall, that they might set  
 in order their busineses, and pre-  
 pare their grieuances, which wee  
 promised both to heare and answer  
 before that Recesse, for presenting  
 whereof wee appointed them a  
 time. This message graciously in-  
 tended by Us, was not so well  
 entertained by some, who in a short  
 time disperfed and spred their ieal-  
 ousies vnto others, and thereby  
 occasioned discontentment in the  
 House, for being adiourned without  
 passing of Billes; Yet made not  
 their addresse to Us, as had beene  
 meet, but desired a conference with  
 the Lords; and at that conference,  
 the nine and twentieth day of May,  
 vnder colour of desiring to petition  
 Us for some farther time, to perfect  
 and



and passe some speciall Bills, were imboldened, not onely to dispute, but to refell all the reasons that we had given for the adiournement, which being made known vnto Us, we againe signified Our pleasure to both Houses, that on the fourth day of June the Parliament should rise, but we would then giue Our Royall assent to such billes, as were or should be ready and fit to be then passed, continuing all other busineses in state they were, by a speciall Act to bee framed for that purpose.

The Lords With all duetie and respect, submitted to Our resolution, passed the Act, and sent it With speciall recommendation to the house of Commons; but they neither read it, nor proceeded With busineses, but forgetting that the time was Ours and not theirs, continued their discontentment, as they pretended, for being so soone dismissed. we (though  
it

it were strange to obserue such a  
uersnesse for Our resolving vpon  
such waighty reasons, that wherein  
wee needed not to bee measured by  
any other rule, but Our owne  
Princely Will ) yet were contented  
to descend from Our owne Right,  
to alter Our resolution, and to con-  
tinne the Session for a fortnight  
more, wherein they might persute  
such publique Billes, as were esteem-  
ed of most importance: for which  
purpose, We Our selfe came in per-  
son vnto the Higher house of Parlia-  
ment, and made offer thereof vnto  
them, which being in effect as much  
as the Commons had formerly desi-  
red, was no sooner offered, but yeel-  
ding thankes to Us, the said Com-  
mons resolved the same day direct-  
ly, contrary to their former desire,  
to refuse it, and to accept Our first  
Resolution of an adiournement: but  
attending Us at Greenwich, presen-  
ted

ted no grievances: This inconstancie, as wee passed by with a gentle admonition; so for the matter of grievances, as well of England, as Ireland, we promised to take them into Our owne care, though not presented to Us, and really performed the same so farre forth, as time, and the aduice of Our Councell of each Kingdome could enable Us, as is witnessed by Our severall Proclamations, published in both Realms, as likewise in granting at the same time those three suites which were proponed vnto Us by the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, at the request, and in the name of both the Houses: But in conclusion the house of Commons making it their chouse, wee made a Recess by adiournement of the Parliament, the fourth day of June; Though indeed we must doe them this right, that at the said Recess, taking into their serious

con-



consideration the present estate of  
 Our children abroad, and the gene-  
 rall afflicted estate of the true Pro-  
 fessors of Religion in forraine parts,  
 they did with one vnanimous con-  
 sent, in the name of themselves, and  
 the whole body of the Kingdome,  
 make a most dutifull and solemne  
 protestation, that if Our pious En-  
 deauours, by treatie to procure their  
 peace and safetie, should not take  
 that good effect which was desired,  
 (in the treatie whereof, they hum-  
 bly besought Us, not to suffer any  
 long delay) then, vpon signification  
 of Our pleasure in Parliament, they  
 would be ready, to the vttermost of  
 their powers, both with liues and  
 fortunes to assist Us; so as that by  
 the diuine helpe of Almighty God,  
 we might be able to doe that by  
 Our sword, which by peaceable  
 courses should not be effected.

But during the time of this long

Recesse, hauing to Our great charges mediated With the Emperour, by the meanes of Our Embassadour, the Lord Digbie, and hauing found those hopes to fayle, which we had to preuaile by treaty, wee in confidence of the Assistance of Our people, thus freely promised and protested in Parliament, did instantly shorten the time of the Recesse, (which we had before appointed to continue vntill the eighth day of February,) and did reassemble Our Parliament, the twentieth day of Nouember last, and made knowne vnto them the true state and necessity of Our Childrens affayres, declaring Our resolution vnto them, of taking vpon Us the defence of Our Childrens patrimony, by way of Armes, since we could not compasse it by an amicable treaty; and therefore expected the fruit of that their declaration, whereby we were  
 invited

inuitēd vnto this course : Wherein,  
howbeit We are well satisfied of the  
good inclination of the most part of  
Our House of Commons, testified by  
their ready assent to the speedy pay-  
ment of a Subsidie, newly to bee  
granted, yet vpon this occasion some  
particular members of that House  
tooke such inordinate liberty, not on-  
ly to treat of Our high Preroga-  
tives, and of sundry things, that  
without Our speciall direction were  
no fit subiects to be treated of in Par-  
liament; but also to speake with lesse  
respect of forraigne Princes, Our  
Allies, then were fit for any Subiect  
to doe of anoynted Kings, though  
in enmity and hostility with Vs.  
And when, vpon this occasion, wee  
bled some reprehension towarde  
those miscarriages, requiring them  
not to proceede but in such things as  
were within the capacity of that  
House, according to the continuall cu-



Some of Our Predecessors, then by  
 the meanes of some euil affected and  
 discontented persons, such heat and  
 distemper was rayled in the House,  
 that albeit themselves had sued vn-  
 to Us for a Session, and for a gene-  
 rall Pardon, vnto both which at  
 their earnest suit we assented, yet af-  
 ter this fire kindled, they reiected  
 both, and setting apart all busines-  
 ses of consequence & waight (not with-  
 standing Our admonition and ear-  
 nest pressing them to goe on) they  
 either sate as silent, or spent the time  
 in disputing of Priuiledges, descant-  
 ing vpon the words and syllables  
 of Our Letters & messages, which  
 for better cleering of trueth, and sa-  
 tisfaction of all men, we are about  
 to publish in Print, so soone as possi-  
 bly we can. And although in Our  
 Answer to their petition, wee gaue  
 them full assurance that wee would  
 be as carefull of the preservation of  
 their



their Priviledges, as of Our owne  
 Royall Prerogative; and in Our ex-  
 planation after sent vnto them by  
 Our Letters, Written to Our Se-  
 cretary, we told them that we ne-  
 ver meant to denie them any lawfull  
 priuiledges that euer that House en-  
 ioied in Our predecessours times;  
 and that Whatsoever priuiledges or  
 liberties they enioied by any Law  
 or Statute, should euer bee inuola-  
 bly preserued by Us; and we hoped  
 Our posterity would imitate Our  
 footsteps therein; and Whatsoever  
 priuiledges they enioied by long cu-  
 stome, and vncontrolled and lawfull  
 Presidents, we would likewise be as  
 carefull to preserue them, and trans-  
 mit the care thereof to Our posterity,  
 confessing Our selues in iustice to be  
 bound to maintaine them in their  
 Rights, and in grace, that we were  
 rather minded to increase, then in-  
 fringe any of them, if they should so  
 deserue

deserue at Our hands, which might  
 satisfie any reasonable man, that we  
 were farre from violating their pri-  
 uiledges. And although by Our  
 Letters Written to their Speaker,  
 wee aduised them to proceede, and  
 make this a Session, to the end, that  
 Our good & louing subiects might  
 haue some taste, aswell of Our grace  
 and goodnes towards them, by Our  
 free pardon and good Lawes to bee  
 passed, as they had both by the great  
 and vnusuall examples of Justice  
 since this meeting, and the so many  
 eases and comforts giuen vnto them  
 by Proclamation. And although  
 we had giuen order for the Pardon  
 to goe on, and that in a more graci-  
 ous and liberall manner then hath  
 passed in many yeeres before, and  
 signified Our Willingnesse, that ra-  
 ther then time should bee mispent,  
 they might lay aside the thought  
 of the Subsidie, and goe on with an  
 Act

Act for continuance of Statutes,  
 and the generall Pardon ; yet all  
 this preuailed not to satisfie them,  
 either for their pretended Priuiled-  
 ges, or to perswade them to pro-  
 ceed with Bills for the good of them-  
 selues, and those that sent them. But  
 as the Session and Pardon were  
 by them well desired at first, so were  
 they as ill reiectted at the last ; and  
 notwithstanding the sinceritie of  
 Our protestations, not to invade  
 their Priuiledges ; yet by the per-  
 swasion of such as had beene the  
 cause of all these distempers, they  
 fall to carue for themselves, and  
 pretending causelessly to bee occasio-  
 ned thereunto, in an vnseasonable  
 houre of the day, and a very thinne  
 House, contrary to their owne Cu-  
 stome in all matters of Waight, con-  
 clude, and enter a protestation for  
 their liberties, in such ambiguous  
 and generall words, as might serue  
 for



for future times to invade most of  
 Our inseparable Rights and Pre-  
 rogatiues, annexed to Our Imper-  
 riall Crowne : Whereof not onely  
 in the times of other Our Progeni-  
 tozs, but in the blessed Raigne of  
 Our late Predecessor, that renown-  
 ned Queene ELIZABETH, wee  
 found Our Crowne actually posses-  
 sed; an vsurpation that the Maiesty  
 of a King can by no meanes en-  
 dure. By all which may appeare,  
 that howsoever in the generall pro-  
 ceedings of that House, there are  
 many footsteps of louing and well  
 affected duetie to Vs : yet some ill  
 tempered spirits haue sowed tares  
 among the corne, and thereby fru-  
 strated the hope of that plentifull  
 and good haruest, which might  
 haue multiplied the wealth and  
 welfare of this whole land; and by  
 their cunning diuersions haue impo-  
 sed vpon Vs a necessitie of discon-  
 tinuing

tinuing this present Parliament, without putting vnto it the name or period of a Session.

And therefore, Whereas the said Assembly of Parliament was by Our Commission adiourned vntill the eight day of February now next ensuing, Wee, minding not to continue the same any longer, and therefore not holding it fit to cause the Prelates, Noblemen, and States of this Our Realm, or the Knights, Citizens and Burgessees of the same Parliament to trauaile thereabout, haue thought fit to signifie this Our resolution, With the reasons thereof vnto all Our Subiects, inhabiting in all parts of this Realme, willing and requiring the said Prelates, Noblemen and States, and also the said Knights, Citizens, and Burgessees, and all others, to whom in this case it shall appertain, that they forbear to attend at the day

and place prescribed by the said adjournement; and in so doing, they are and shall bee hereby discharged thereof against Us. And wee doe hereby further declare, that the said Conuention of Parliament, neither is, nor after the ceasing and breaking thereof shall bee, nor ought to bee esteemed, adiudged, or taken to be, or make any Session of Parliament.

And albeit wee are at this time enforced to breake off this Conuention of Parliament: yet Our Will and desire is, that all Our subiects should take notice, for auoyding of all sinister suspicions and iealousies, that Our intent and full resolution is, to gouerne Our people in the same manner, as Our Progenitors and Predecessours, Kings and Queenes of this Realme, of best gouernment, haue heretofore done; and that wee shall be carefull, both  
in

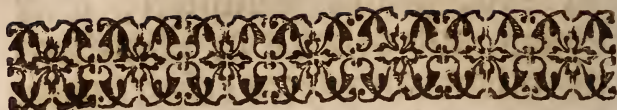


in Our owne person, and by charging Our Prīue Counsell, Our Judges, and other Our Ministers in their severall places respectiue, to distribute true Justice and right vnto all Our people; and that wee shall bee as glad to lay hold of the first occasion in due and conuenient time, which wee hope shall not bee long, to Call and Assemble Our Parliament, with confidence of the true and hearty loue and affection of Our subiects, as either wee, or any of Our Progenitors haue beene at any time heretofore.

Giuen at Our Pallace at Westminster,  
the sixth day of Ianuary, in the  
nineteenth yeere of Our Reigne  
of Great Britaine, France, and  
Ireland.

God saue the King.





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lent Maiestie.

1621.

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